1	2	3	4
Sikkim	738	1897	42
Tamil Nadu	30893	126422	38381
Tripura	4472	10368	—
Uttar Pradesh	51518	1593	23152
Uttarakhand	26477	2196	20269
West Bengal	182990	7963	21206
TOTAL	1000000	500000	500000

Wastage of foodgrains due to poor storage and transit facilities

1741. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been huge foodgrain losses in several regions of the country, due to poor storage and lack of transit facilities; and

(b) if so, the extent of such losses for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise, and the steps Government proposes to take to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) No, Sir. However, while carrying out operational activities on a large scale, small storage and transit losses are incurred by FCI.

(b) State-wise Storage and Transit Losses (wheat and rice) for the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (Upto September, 2009) in terms of quantity and value are given at Annexure. [*See* Appendix 218 Annexure No. 6]

(b) Steps taken to check/reduce Storage and Transit Losses are given in Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by F.C.I. to check/reduce storage and transit losses

Security and Safety of Storage Complexes

- Physical measures like installation of barbed wire fencing of the boundary walls, provision of street lights for illumination of godowns and proper locking of the sheds are taken to secure the godowns.
- Security staff of FCI as well as other Agencies like Home Guards, Special Police Officers are deployed for safety of the stocks.
- Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force and State Armed Police has been done at some depots/godowns, which are vulnerable.

Inspections

- Security Inspections as well as surprise checks of the Depots are also conducted from time to time at various levels to detect and plug the security lapses.
- Special Squad checking at selected rail-heads, transshipment and destination/ despatch centers.
- Identification of vulnerable points.
- Inspection of Depots by Senior Officers of the HQs, Executive Directors (Zone)/General Managers (Region)/Area Managers.

Quality Control Measures

- Periodical prophylactic and curative treatment of stocks, as prescribed.
- Maintaining priority list for issue of stocks observing the FIFO principle.
- Undertaking pre-monsoon fumigation.
- Improvement in dunnage material.
- Ensuring proper quality checking of foodgrains at the time of procurement.

Preventive Measures and Monitoring of Losses

- Streamlining of procedure and documentation for transparency and accountability in operations at each level.
- Adoption of 50kg packing to avoid use of hooks.
- Double line machine stitching of bags.
- Supervision of loading/unloading operations by the ICCS (Independent Consignment Certification Squad).
- MOU is signed between FCI and Ministry of CAF and PD for the last 5 years. One of the parameters of MOU is to bring down/control storage and transit losses.
- Monitoring of S&T Losses during monthly Performance Review Meetings at Regional/Zonal/Headquarters levels.
- Transfer of officials whose integrity if found doubtful as per existing instructions.
- Transit Insurance of stocks.

Safeguards for Movement and Storage

- Inspection and monitoring of calibration of weigh-bridges.
- Ensuring that all FCI owned godowns are constructed and maintained on scientific lines for storage of foodgrains.

- Movement of foodgrains from one place to another by safe means *i.e.* normally covered wagons etc.
- Loading of standardized bags as far as possible and leaving 18 inches space near the flap doors.
- Proper weighment and accounting at the time of receipt and issue.

Wastage of wheat in Punjab

1742. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Punjab is losing 18 lakh metric tonnes of wheat due to wastage every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of a total 150 lakh metric tonnes of wheat produced in Punjab, almost 100 lakh metric tonnes are stored in the open;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government intends to take to solve this perennial problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of wheat stored under Covered and Plinth (CAP) in Punjab as on 01.11.2009 are as under:

State agencies	—	76.52 lakh metric tonnes
FCI	—	4.55 lakh metric tonnes

(d) In 2008 the Government of India has formulated a Scheme for construction of godowns of godowns for FCI-Storage requirements through Private Entrepreneurs. Under the Scheme, High Level Committee of Food Corporation of India (FCI) has approved creation of storage capacity of 71.25 lakh metric tonnes at various locations in Punjab. The godowns are proposed to be constructed through private investment, for which FCI would be guaranteeing the storage charges for 5 years. The government has also allowed Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) to build godowns at locations approved by the FCI within the 71.25 lakh metric tonnes of storage capacity approved, on their own land and with their own funds. FCI would provide 4 years Guarantee for the storage space so created by CWC/SWCs.

The outward movement of foodgrains from Punjab has been increased so as to create more storing space in the State. The outward movement of wheat from April to October, 2009 was 48.69 lakh metric tonnes as compared to 31.00 lakh metric tonnes in the corresponding period last year.

Allotment of foodgrains to Madhya Pradesh under PDS

†1743. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.